

MONTANA KAIMIN

On the GRIND

UM esports grows out of a love for video games

Story by Max Dupras | Photos by Aston Kinsella



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UM enrollment down 1.5%, state sets traps for grizzlies, Missoula holds mass vaccine clinic boosters

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UM REPORTS A 1.5% DROP IN ENROLLMENT, WELCOMES LARGEST INCOMING CLASS IN SIX YEARS

Even with the largest freshman class since 2016, the University of Montana's enrollment decreased by 1.5% this fall after losses in Missoula College and in online partnership programs for physical therapy.

UM grew for the first time in a decade last year. The total campus population now sits at 9,995 total students, down 151 from Fall 2021. Director of strategic communications Dave Kuntz said Missoula College is down 2.3% due to fewer students seeking two-year degrees, as well as a physical therapy partnership program losing 143 students from decreased need for mid-career graduate degrees.

However, UM reported a 5.9% increase in this year's freshman class compared to last, totalling 1,425 new students. The retention rate – students returning to the University for a second year – dipped by one percent from last year to 74% , which is still up 6% since Seth Bodnar started as president in 2018.

New students that are residents at UM increased by 8.4%, but overall Montana students dropped by 3.6%. Most of the surge of new students came from out of state. 2,127 came from out of state, a 21.5% campus-wide increase from last year. Western Undergraduate Exchange recipients, however, are down by 71.6%, which associate vice president for enrollment Mary Kreta attributed to UM's change in requirements for incoming freshmen last year. Students now must have a 3.95 GPA or more to receive the full WUE award.

Fewer out-of-state students receiving full WUE coverage is part of why UM saw a 12.4% tuition revenue increase compared to last year, totaling nearly \$40 million. Kuntz hopes this will drive success for Provost Pardis Mahdavi's campus restructure plan, as well as keep the campus running amid pressures from inflation.

SIX PEOPLE APPLY FOR OPEN WARD 2 CITY COUNCIL POSITION

After Missoula City Council appointed former Ward 2 councilor Jordan Hess as mayor earlier this month, the city of Missoula released the names of six applicants on Sept. 22 that will contend for the open Ward 2 spot. Ward 2 represents the Mullan Road, Grant Creek and Westside areas. The city council position pays \$1,444 per month with city benefits, according to state law.

University of Montana researcher and may-or applicant Teigan Avery is in the running, along with Realtor and 2021 Ward 2 candidate Rebecca Dawson, 2015 city council candidate and hospice chaplain John T. Rowan, trust lands program manager Sierra Farmer and Missoula County environmental health specialist Charles Shane.

Carpenter Derek Hitt missed the deadline by four minutes after he had technical issues, but the Missoulian reported council president Gwen Jones accepted his application after a phone call.

Interviews will take place on Sept. 28 and the city council's vote on the new councilor is set for Oct. 3.

WILDLIFE MANAGERS SET TRAPS FOR GRIZZLIES FREQUENTING THE BITTERROOT VALLEY

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks managers set three traps north of Florence in the Bitterroot Valley to relocate two new grizzlies in the area before they get into conflicts with humans.

Traps were set at two locations Sept. 21 just outside of the Bitterroot Recovery Zone for a pair of grizzly bears. FWP said the department can relocate the bears since they have not had any interactions with humans.

The grizzlies showed up between Lolo and Florence in mid-August, and wildlife managers are trying to get them out of areas frequented by humans as a precautionary measure.

James Jonkel, a bear specialist with FWP, told the Missoulian the bears traveled from the Clearwater Valley area. Witnesses saw the bears feed on a deer in the middle of a road in Potomac. Another report saw the same pair feeding on a carcass on Interstate 90.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be responsible for relocating the bears if they are captured without food conditioning problems.

Fish and Wildlife generally have the final decision over where they go.

MASS COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC WITH UPDATED BOOSTERS SET FOR OCTOBER IN MISSOULA

Missoula Public Health officials are hosting a mass COVID-19 vaccine clinic on Oct. 11 at the Missoula County Fairgrounds, where they will be offering both booster shots and primary doses for free.

After more than two years of daily tracking, the Missoula City-County Health Department stopped updating its COVID-19 data webpage on Sept. 23, Missoula County had 265 active cases with 64% of the population fully vaccinated.

The Montana Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 dashboard will continue to be updated each Friday.

The mass clinic will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Prior registration on health insurance is not required. The clinic will offer Pfizer and Moderna doses and the newer Novavax vaccine for ages 12 and up.

The bivalent boosters, new to Fall 2022, will also be available to protect against newer omicron subvariants for anyone over 12 years old who had their last vaccine dose more than two months ago.

Missoula Public Health also has a regular vaccine site at 301 West Alder St. and Seeley-Swan High School will hold a clinic on Sept. 29, with one at the Frenchtown Fire Station the following day. The Lolo Community Center will hold a clinic on Oct. 6, and there will be an all day clinic on Oct. 13 at the Missoula elections center.

Curry Health also offers walk-in appointments for all COVID-19 primary vaccine doses and boosters and flu shots 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every weekday.

POLICE BLOTTER

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The University of Montana Police Department wrapped up an interesting fourth week of school to say the least. Elevator problems and stolen computers put a lot on the plates of the police. Here are four reports from Sept. 17 to Sept. 21.

SUNDAY 9/17: VEHICULAR VANDALISM

UMPD responded to a report of a minor car crash in lot H, where the bumper of a 2005 Toyota Camry saw some damage. The person who damaged the vehicle had left, but the owner thought a car that was parked next to theirs was the culprit. Upon inspection, UMPD determined that the car the owner pointed out was not involved in the crash. Can't someone just get a highly coveted parking spot without being accused of a crime?

9/16 TO 9/18: ELEVATOR ESCAPE

UMPD responded to three reported elevator breakdowns this week. The first happened on Sept. 16 when an elevator in Aber Hall stopped working. On Sept. 18, two separate elevators got stuck. The first was at the Mansfield Library, where a woman was trapped inside but was rescued by an officer. The second occurred at Jesse Hall, where three people were stuck on the elevator between the fifth and sixth floor. UMPD ended up rescuing the three people. Possibly avoid all elevator use on campus unless necessary. The University should really get someone to look into that.

WEDNESDAY 9/21: COMPUTER CROOK

UMPD received a call from the social sciences building that a computer had been stolen sometime between June 6 and Aug. 24. Later, the IT department received an email from someone that had purchased the stolen computer, who looked up the ID number and found out it belonged to the University. This case is currently open and they have a lead on the suspect. Maybe get a computer checked out before you buy it from someone shady.

WEDNESDAY 9/21: EXTREME EX-BOYFRIEND

At 8:15 p.m on Sept. 21, UMPD received a report that a girl was being watched by her ex-boyfriend, who was sitting in his truck outside of her residence. This is only classified as a suspicious person because more than one occurrence is required to classify it as stalking. The girl is in the process of getting a restraining order. It may seem hard now, but remember there are plenty of fish in the sea that won't stalk you.

The Weekly Crossword													by Margie E. Burke			
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13		
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63								64				65				

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ACROSS

- 1 Supermarket section
5 Strip of wood
9 Greyhound fleet
14 Vince's "Wedding Crashers" co-star

- 15 Creative spark
16 Open, as a bottle
17 Refuge
19 Code name?
20 Furnish with a fund

- 21 Lift in a gym
23 Moray, e.g.
24 Blunder
26 Farmer's place, in song

- 27 Like many wines
30 Alda or Arkin
32 Outback runner
33 Word after dial or earth

- 34 Laughing statue
37 Debra of "Will & Grace"

- 39 Season of heavy rain
40 Recite a mantra
41 Tropical wood
42 Withdraw, with "out"

- 43 Marine growth
44 2011 Spielberg movie
46 Ask for I.D.
48 Sub sandwich
50 Curtain holder
51 Boxing ploy

- 52 Toward the stern
56 Make a case for
58 Underwater swimmer
60 Fixed gaze

- 61 Ticklish Muppet
62 "Rosanna" band
63 Start to "got a clue"
64 Marsh plant
65 Shemar Moore series

DOWN

- 1 Medicine amount
2 Naomi's co-star in "The Impos-sible"

- 3 Extend credit
4 1040 entry
5 "Elementary" actress
6 Changing with the times

- 7 Patio of sorts
8 "Frida" star
9 Slackers
10 Card game
11 Patio entrance, often

- 12 Art studio item
13 Hex
18 Doing a '60s dance

- 22 Coastal area
25 Prehistoric period
26 Root beer brand
27 Patrick's "Ghost" co-star

- 28 Sign of foreboding
29 Chemical weapon of WWI
31 Bozo
35 Brewer's need

- 36 Poker stake
38 Auctioneer's closing word
39 Interim period
41 When repeated, what little stars do

- 45 Circles the earth
46 1929 event
47 Largest artery
49 Stair part

- 51 Stocking stuffers
53 Declare openly
54 Crumbly cheese
55 Horse gait

- 57 Ashes holder
59 Silent assent

Answers to Previous Crossword:

C	L	A	S	S	A	P	S	E	I	D	E	A
H	E	L	L	O	R	O	P	E	N	O	R	M
A	N	T	I	B	I	O	T	I	C	F	I	N
P	O	E	M	T	U	S	K	L	E	N	I	N
R	E	S	I	N	E	M	E	R	G	E	D	
A	W	E	U	N	D	U	L	A	N	T		
R	E	G	I	M	E	M	E	E	T	I	N	G
I	R	O	N	R	E	B	E	L	L	O	L	L
D	E	S	O	L	A	T	E	S	T	E	R	E
S	I	T	U	A	T	E	G	R	A	T	E	
P	S	A	L	M	T	A	R	O	E	G	G	S
I	L	I	A	C	E	R	E	M	O	N	I	A
C	E	L	T	A	R	M	S	U	S	A	G	E
E	S	S	E	P	A	Y	S	R	E	N	E	W

Which video-game baddie are you?



HALEY YARBOROUGH

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There's no better way to distract yourself from the soul-crushing reality of a college education than playing video games. Whether you're playing on a PC, console, at an arcade or on your phone, for once in your life you get to be anyone from a vengeful god to an undead ninja to an antagonistic goat. But if you lived in a virtual reality, who would you really be? Only the stars can tell.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):

This is your Minecraft world and we're just living in it. You're Steve and your square head is a bottomless pit of crafting knowledge. You know enchanting spells better than your left hand and you could probably slay the Enderdragon with one eye closed. What if you put your Minecraft bed next to mine? Just kidding. Unless...

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):

You and your Libra friends spend your Friday nights singing sea shanties at Iron Horse. You can blame it on the whiskey or the fact that you've been obsessively playing Assassins Creed Black Flag for the last three days. Either way, you're Edward Kenway, the privateer-turned-pirate assassin with a knack for shanking, stealing and simping over women way out of your league.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):

You love to play the role of damsel in distress, but we all know you're just a bad-bitch in a pretty pink disguise. Scorpio, you're Princess Peach. Even though Mario saves your ass twenty-four-seven, you consider yourself a strong, independent woman. Break out of that cage and go fail that physics exam, queen.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21):

You're a nerd with a keen sense of adventure. It's all fun and games until you're stranded on a sketchy island near Japan, being hunted down by a malevolent cult. Sag, you're Lara Croft and like the archeologist heroine, your Hunger Games phase continues to influence your love for archery. Just try not to blow all of daddy's money on your "adventures."

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19):

As the one-and-only super soldier Master Chief, your fearless resolve and determination inspires others. You also may or may not have a thing for an AI. Who can blame you? Cortana is fine AF and so are you, even if you're an absolute TANK. Underneath all that Mjolnir armor is seven feet of hotness.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18):

Early bird gets the worm. And like Pac-Man, you have a voracious appetite (for success, that is). You may or may not resemble a garbanzo bean on two legs, but who said

Pac-Man couldn't be hot? All those pixels got me feeling some kind of way.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):

Living in Montana, you are *naturally* cowboy-outlaw Arthur Morgan. No one pulls off dirty blue shirts and gambler hats quite like you. Even if you're a little thick in the head, your genuine desire to do the right thing and sensual "horse talk" makes up for it. Just don't contract tuberculosis anytime soon. You're too ruggedly handsome to die. #SaveAHorseRideACowboy

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):

You probably need some anger-management intervention. You're Kratos. Like the Greek God of War, you deal with your underlying daddy issues by *slaying* anything unlucky enough to cross your path. Does it really matter when you're a DILF? With arms capable of holding the Nine Realms, you can snap me in half any day. You'll slay this semester just like you slayed the Greek Pantheon.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):

Taurus, you're Jin Sakai, a steamy samurai lord with an alter-ego. Like Jin, you're quiet and contemplative and spend most of your time writing poetry, taking long walks in nature and silently chopping off the heads of your war-sworn enemies. They don't call you the host for nothing.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):

Gem, you are most literally the GOAT. You're Pilgor, the central protagonist and resident badass of Goat Simulator. Naturally, as an all-powerful being, you are a goddess of chaos with little regard for the woes of humanity. Your long and deadly tongue is sure to strike fear into the heart of your enemies.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):

If there was a zombie apocalypse, you'd be the main character. No, you're not Rick Grimes, you're hotter. Cancer, you're Joel Miller, the bad-ass, grizzled daddy of the post-apocalyptic world. You don't trust anyone, except your pseudo-adopted daughter with trauma. You'd probably run me over, but you can put me in a chokehold any day <3.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):

You have a kink for drinking other people's blood. If you're hot and eight-feet tall, does it really matter? You're a bad bitch and like Lady Dimitrescu, are an excellent host (for parasites, that is). Nearly half the internet is thirsting over you, but who can blame them for wanting to be choked by your abnormally large hands?

‘We all have a story’: UM celebrates American Indian Heritage Day

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Amid the cold and fog, the circle of attendees warmed their hands at the fire and clutched cups of tea and coffee during UM’s celebration of American Indian Heritage Day. Brad Hall, UM’s tribal outreach specialist, kicked off the ceremony by explaining the significance of gathering in a circle. “We all have a story, we all have a purpose and a place,” Hall said. He then introduced Arlene Adams, a UM alum who has led the sunrise ceremony for over two decades. Hall passed an abalone shell full of smoking sweetgrass around the circle, allowing those present to scoop the smoke over themselves with their hands, known as smudging. Smudging is meant to cleanse the self, objects and places. The sunrise ceremony used sweetgrass per Adams’ request. Smudging is used by many American tribal groups. The smoke represents prayers going up to the Creator in a general sense, according to Hall. It’s used to free oneself of negative energy and protect from harm. Practitioners often pray for themselves or others during the process. Adams encouraged participants in the circle to pray as they smudged. She prayed for her 86-year-old neighbor who is missing. “The most simple gift, the most simple prayer the Creator gives us is asking for ourselves,” Adams said. “The community here at University of Montana, you guys are important,” Adams said. “My ancestors would say it’s not a mistake that you’re here today.” Those attending faced Mount Sentinel as Adams sang a Bitterroot Salish smoking song, which she said keeps people connected to the land. She then went around the circle, thanking those present and giving out handshakes and hugs. “It’s a way that we kick off the day,” Hall said of the ceremony as the sky lightened into robin-egg blue. “We invite people to show that we’re generous people.” The sunrise ceremony used to be held on a switchback leading up to the M, but was moved to the fire pit outside the Payne Center once it was built. “I think it’s just a nice way to include people in our traditional songs and the way we’ve done things,” said Wilena Old Person, adviser to the Kiyiyo Native American Student Association. At noon, UM’s new provost and executive vice president Pardis Mahdavi spoke on the Oval. “I’m appreciative of the opportunity and



At the round dance on the Oval on Sept. 23, the circle swelled, leading to the formation of a second circle to form as more participants began to join in on the celebration. **ANDY MEPHAM | MONTANA KAIMIN**

humbled to learn more from everyone gathered here today as to how we can continue to support the good work that Brad and our colleagues have begun,” Mahdavi said. She described some of the efforts and recent victories UM has achieved in Native American education. Since 2018, recruitment of Native students has gone up by 23% and retention has risen 17%. The University is continuing the integration of Indian Education for All and is partnering with a Salish cultural committee to design a new center of peace on the Oval. Financial Aid is also hiring a new position to serve the needs of Native students. “We have a long way to go. This is a long journey ahead of us, and so I’m incredibly grateful for the thoughtful partnership of everyone gathered here today,” Mahdavi said. She concluded by reading the proclamation that declares the fourth Friday of September as American Indian Heritage Day, which was followed by a round dance on the Oval. The UM festivities concluded with soup in the Payne rotunda. Adams said although UM takes one day out of its year to honor the heritage of its Native students and staff, heritage isn’t packed up and left on Sept. 23. “Native American Awareness Day is every day for us,” Adams said.

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UM Hosts Inaugural Grizzly Leadership Summit for student advocates

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Students from different advocacy groups convened for breakfast, ice cream and trainings on tough issues they face at work during the Student Advocacy Resource Center’s first Grizzly Leadership Summit. Large round tables filled the University Center ballroom when students first arrived for a breakfast social, and organizers encouraged students to sit with people they didn’t know. Student leaders such as resident assistants, University of Montana Advocates, members of LGBTQIA+ advocacy group Lambda and workers from SARC sat together in pods, making quick introductions and explaining their roles at UM. If the conversation sounded strained or awkward, that’s because it was supposed to. The organizers said the effort is the point. “Living in our modern age means that we all get so wrapped up in our own little bubbles, and that can feel really isolating, especially when you’re a new student,” said the Director of New Student Success and co-creator of the summit, Devin Carpenter. “One of the main goals we had in mind for this event was to teach student leaders how to get better at popping that bubble and reaching out to someone you might not know, even if that means making things a little uncomfortable for yourself.” Staff members led student training exercises about crisis response and inclusive language. They also took leadership assessment quizzes that tested students on their leadership qualities and revealed how they best work with others. Structured through short, rotating lessons, students chose at the end of each 20 minutes where they wanted to go next.

“It’s nice because it still gives you that sense of learning and working with an instructor while also being more fun and relaxed than going to school,” said SARC director and creator of the summit, Jen Euell. “It’s kind of a choose-your-own-adventure way of learning.” Euell said the summit was a product of multiple conversations she had with Carpenter about the possibility of having all leadership programs meet face-to-face and go through cross-training. “Even if all these groups have their own specific areas of specialty, all student leadership groups have more or less the same goal: to reach out to students and be active in their lives and communities,” Euell said. “So why not have an event where they all can get to know each other better?” The speakers at the summit addressed the loss of a student in Aber Hall less than a week before the event. The news weighed heavy on the minds of participants as they went through training scenarios. “We lost a member of our Griz family this week,” said the Vice Provost of Campus Life, Leslie Webb. “I have had my share of sleepless nights from thinking about my own family, my own children.” Webb spoke of her own feelings of alienation and lack of connection with the Missoula community because of being so new to UM and the vice provost position, as well as the need to reach out to others in times of need. “When building a community, it’s ok to start off not knowing someone,” Webb said. “It’s ok to feel a little awkward. Those are exactly the feelings we need to start leaning in to, because reaching out is always a little scary.” After Webb’s speech, student leaders broke off into groups and went through exercises for



Students sit in groups during the ice cream social hour after the leadership summit in the University Center Ballroom on Sept. 17. **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

the rest of the day, aside from a lunch break. They reconvened in the UC ballroom to close out the summit with an ice cream social. “It feels really good to be a part of a summit like this because I think, as an RA, it’s important for all of us student leaders to reach a mutual understanding of what our goals are,” said Bradley Roscoe, a sophomore at UM and an RA in Duniway Hall. “Plus, it just inspires a lot of confidence for us to be reminded that we’re sort of all in this together, you know?” Camaraderie proved to be a dominant takeaway from the summit, including for Vice President of Lambda, Alex Realini, who says

that one of the reasons they got into Lambda initially was out of a need to connect with others. “The tragedy that took place this past week really only reminded me and other leaders I’ve known, why we want to do this: so that I can help other people,” Realini said. When asked about what they learned from the summit and hopes other student leaders will take away, Realini’s response was immediate. “Just be a resource for people. That’s what we’re here for,” Realini said.

Former Ukrainian press secretary holds webinar for UM

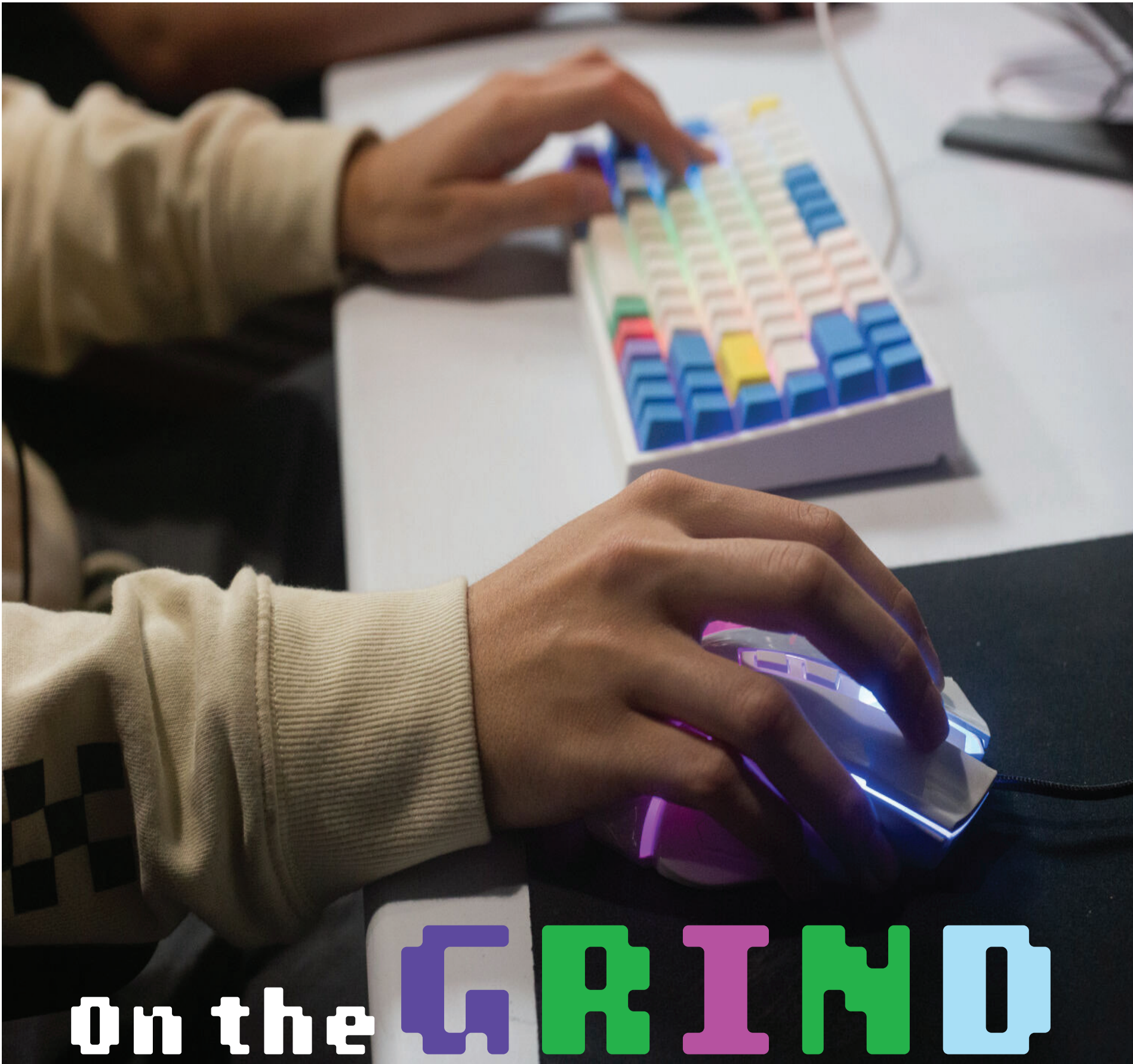
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Iuliia Mendel shared bold insights on what Russia’s invasion of Ukraine means for her home country, and democracies across the world in her Sept. 20 Mansfield Center dialogue, “Ukraine: Our Fight for Independence.” Mendel recently authored a book called “The Fight of Our Lives,” that details what the Ukrainian conflict means to the world, her time working with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and how global democracy is at stake. “Russia is doing terrible things in my country,” Mendel said. “If we want Democracy

to stand stronger than autocracy we need to finish the fight.” She said that democracy will prevail once Russia stops killing, torturing and sending missiles at innocent people. The invasion that began in February caused Europe’s largest refugee crisis since World War II, with a third of the country displaced. Many towns were destroyed in the process, including Mendel’s hometown of Henichesk. “It is very important that the European Union and the United States have this position to help us fight one of the most unpredictable autocracies of today’s international relations,” Mendel said.

Although Ukraine has the European Union and the United States behind them, she addressed the fact that the United Nations is structured in a way that gives Russia veto power. This makes it nearly impossible to ask the UN for any form of help during the conflict. Mendel also discussed her time as press secretary for Zelenskyy, and said she believes he is the perfect man to run the country in a time of war. “He is a rock star in Ukraine,” Mendel said. Everyone wants to work for him.” Zelenskyy was elected in 2019, with Mendel chosen as press secretary out of 4000 applicants later that year. The two spent a lot

of time together going to diplomatic meetings with leaders all over the world. Although she has high admiration for Zelenskyy, she stepped away from her role after two years. The job was rewarding, but it was taxing on her physically and mentally to continue doing it any longer. Mendel is looking toward an end to this war, hoping that Ukraine can still stand tall as the largest democracy and territory of freedom in post-Soviet states. “Ukrainians are dying for nothing,” Mendel said. “For some dictator’s ego, for the ghosts of the past.”



At 250 strong, esports bring new presence to UM

Story by Max Dupras | Photos by Aston Kinsella



LEFT: Lucas Jarrett uses a custom keyboard and mouse during a Thursday Overwatch match on Sept. 15. Esports players use mainly mouse and keyboard setups to play on PC, though controllers are better for games like Rocket League.

ABOVE: Tanner Niemi, left, captain and coach Canyon Hardy, middle, Colby Tilleman, right, and Sierra Ciafardone, far right, call for help and strategize mid-match on Sept. 15. Due to a power surge the entire teams PC's shut down and the team had to forfeit one round of the Louisville match.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA esports team captain Canyon Hardy called out moves to teammates stretched down a line of clean tables.

Each player focused on the screens ahead and moved precisely to set up each attack. With each rotation, the University of Montana's Overwatch squad intensified the clacking of keyboards inside the Gaming Den, a place formerly known for its billiards tables.

In the back, UM's Overwatch team took on the University of Louisville, a large program with winning results, in one of its first scrimmages of the year. While the game did not count for the regular season, the Sept. 15 scrimmage was the first official matchup that UM faced.

Overwatch is a first-person shooter game where teams of six have to achieve one of three goals. The object is to beat the enemy team by either protecting your respective attack points or by completing an objective that can include guiding a payload to points across the map or by claiming control points.

The Overwatch team, all students at UM, focused intently on the game. It was only the

first round of play and the game was filled with the team's early communication. Shaky voices and darting eyes executed efficient plays down the stretch.

Each time Louisville tried to strike back, it was met with combinations of well-placed tanks from the Griz supporters.

The combination of the team's quick communication and swift action rewarded them with a win to start its scrimmage. The team exchanged fist bumps, released their grievances about their own plays and readied up for the next round of the game.

The UM program, now waging games against the best esports teams in the country, couldn't even field full teams years prior.

That meant that before 2019, the most prominent sound in the Gaming Den might be the cracking of pool balls.

But thanks to UM funding and private donors, the esports team set up shop in the fall of 2019. Every Thursday, roughly 40 members came in and made the left side of the lounge their domain. Players played multiple games at once as the UM esports teams looked to sharpen their skills.

Now, the teams have a dedicated space with computers and streaming equipment, and multiple full-time staffers to help run the program.

The team also led the way in raising money for the annual Can the Cats charity event last year while also being a major part of giving back to Missoula through volunteering and donations.

From the consistently expanding team to the thousands of dollars in support, UM esports has given students a new scene to succeed in college.

It's easy to forget that nearly 10 years ago — before the fancy setups — the University's first online gaming club formed in the basement of Don Anderson Hall.

GRATEFUL GAMERS

When Cale Patenaude and Ryan Knowles were in college, UM esports didn't have the rows of computers or the broadcasting capabilities it does today.

Patenaude started in 2012 at the University of Montana, eventually graduating with a

degree in management information systems in 2016. His love for gaming ran deep. While in college, he wanted to share this love with others.

Knowles was Patenaude's protege and someone who helped evolve the gaming club. He graduated in 2019 from UM with a bachelor's in computer science.

Patenaude asked if they could use the basement of UM's journalism building in 2013. He then wrangled up some friends and UM's first gaming group, the League of Legends group, was born.

The game is a multiplayer online battle arena where teams of five face off to destroy each other's base. The game is filled with different characters players choose, all of which have their own abilities and strategies for success.

The game, at a glance, is extraordinarily confusing. It requires a knowledge of roughly 140 different characters, each with their own unique playstyle, while also balancing effective communication and timing with your team.

"I just wanted a place that me and a few friends felt like we could game and just have an environment that's appreciative to gaming," Patenaude said.

Riot Games, the company responsible for League of Legends, incentivized gaming on campus not just as a club, but as a scholared sport.

Esports is an industry that has existed since the 1970s, with one of the first college tournaments held at Stanford University in 1972. But it wasn't until the '90s that college esports could be considered a profitable industry for students.

With an uptick in gamers going to college, gaming companies and students slowly built competitive leagues and frameworks in the West.

The rise in esports exploded in 2013, when Riot Games and Blizzard, another game company, started partnerships with Tespa, an esports organizer that focused on kickstarting esports programs on college campuses.

Soon after, college clubs organized large-scale tournaments. The explosion of gaming in the U.S. led to partnerships, which ultimately gave clubs the money to be recognized as scholared sports programs.

When the League of Legends club was still new, Patenaude capitalized on the smaller perks of having a college esports club. The League of Legends perks weren't impressive — just a bit of swag and gear to incentivize joining — but the real struggle was having the space.

They were allowed to install League of Legends on the J-school computers, but other uses of the building limited their time. Along with the basement being its spot, the gaming club moved around from the journalism building to the social sciences building.

After Patenaude graduated, the reins were handed over to Knowles, when things quickly grew and the League of Legends club became the gaming club.



The Griz esports League team gathers around a computer as they review the match they finished on Sept. 7. The team reflects on character builds — equipment earned during the match — and team strategy to improve for the upcoming season.

“All throughout my time of gaming, it’s always been frowned upon or viewed as wasted time, all that kind of stuff,” Patenaude said. “We were kind of on a mission to change that narrative.”

Previous University leadership ultimately shot down the original esports program Patenaude pitched. But one man looked to change that as President Seth Bodnar started at the University.

COMING IN CLUTCH

Director of UM esports Michael Cassens came to the University of Montana after being a software developer for 20 years.

His goal is to help students use media arts professionally and effectively. Part of that pitch included the official creation of a UM esports team.

He didn’t want to restart a League of Legends club. He wanted a multi-game team.

In early 2019, Cassens pitched the esports program to the UM administration.

Cassens is an assistant professor at the School of Visual and Media Arts. His focus is on game design and interactive design. After he started, UM approved his proposal, lining up a year of research and planning.

The timeline was expedited, Cassens said. He only had a few months to plan the new program as Bodnar and former Provost Jon Harbor monitored his progress. Cassens called in Knowles and Patenaude, both former leaders of the original gaming club, and Kaitlyn Weis, the team’s current community director, to get the program off the ground with the help of UC marketing.

“Cale, Ryan and Kait are just, well, they’re the workhorses on making sure that this is happening on a day to day basis and making sure that these kids are feeling really engaged all the time,” Cassens said.

This wasn’t just League anymore. The esports club included mainstream games like

Overwatch, Rocket League, Fortnite and others that are big internationally. Many incoming freshmen have lived with the games for years.

Cassens argued the University should make the games accessible for those who want to join esports on campus. Esports has brought in crowds larger than some sporting events. Tournaments for games like Counter Strike: Global Offensive bring in roughly 13,000 players every year.

The League of Legends World Championship is considered the largest in terms of prize pool and crowd size, awarding teams a total of \$2.25 million with thousands watching on Twitch.

With support from the University guaranteed, Cassens’ fantasy became reality. The initial launch included roughly 50 interested students. Cassens saw it as a huge win.

“We’re like, ‘This is really cool, we got 50 people,’” Cassens said. “This is great. We got to orientation and 60 people showed up. So we were like, ‘Wow, OK.’ At that point, we were

able to field five teams of different games: Overwatch, Apex, League of Legends, Rocket League, Fortnite. And then, as time went on, it just kept getting bigger.”

After the program’s first orientation and the first practices, it picked up more attention as it took on almost a life of its own. The already existing teams thrived and new games started to come around like Super Smash Bros and Valorant.

Fifty people grew to 100 people. The program was poised for growth. But, as many modern stories go, COVID-19 hit and things stalled. But where many sports had to adapt to social distancing protocols, the UM esports program kept their players at home while still allowing them to compete.

The program has more than doubled in size since the start of the pandemic, with roughly 250 members both on and off scholarship. With in-person events back in full swing, the esports program is expanding past its original goals.



Colby Tilleman plays with the Griz esports Overwatch team as they participate in a six versus six match on Sept. 15. Overwatch plays on map-specific objectives by choosing from a roster of “heroes” in a first-person shooter platform.

GIVING BACK

Cassens formed esports for many reasons, but there are two that drive the program: Giving back to the students and giving back to Missoula.

The program now helps with charity events, including Can the Cats every fall. There’s a more gaming-centered, 24-hour livestream called “Extra Life Charity Event,” where students broadcast games for all to watch while trying to raise donations for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

This initiative also gives back to high schoolers around Missoula, where UM students go out and help coach and run local gaming clubs.

“What’s easy for me to say is what you’re giving to is you’re giving to our students,” Cassens said. “I mean, nobody’s making huge salaries off of this. It’s more about how do we create an environment and a community for these students so that they can thrive. That’s really what this program’s about.”

UM esports is not just a club. It is a scholarship activity where students can earn \$1,000 scholarships to play video games in a competitive setting. But the program isn’t actively recruiting America’s next big Twitch streamer. It’s for anyone who wants to try out.

The pipeline for success is predicated on commitment, Cassens said. Each team for a game gets dedicated practice time to get its reps in. Players are not only competing. They also pitch in on the other roles on the team like coaching, broadcasting or tournament managing.

Both the jobs and community service, in addition to playing the game, are what Cassens believes makes students successful academically, which he thinks will eventually transfer

over into tangible professional skills.

“You can be successful and just play an absolute ton of video games,” Knowles said. “You can have a successful career and maybe you have to mold it yourself, right? You have to really trailblaze, but you can still be successful and be a gamer.”

The program itself is still new. Many of the program’s first athletes finished their degrees last year. Some had to leave esports to make time for school. But for Hardy, that dream of graduating is now less daunting because of the family made at the Gaming Den.

“Nobody’s making huge salaries off of this. It’s more about how do we create an environment and a community for these students so that they can thrive.”

-Director of UM esports Michael Cassens

AT HOME IN HANAMURA

Even with club growth, not everything went as planned. Only a couple minutes into the second game of the scrimmage versus Louisville, everyone’s screens turned black.

A collective cry of disappointment was followed by panic. Every team member whipped out a phone to contact anyone they could, mainly the Gaming Den manager and UM esports founder Patenaude.

Knowles, now UM esports’ competition director, went into emergency mode. With esports responsible for its own technical setups, this power bump could mean that UM’s Overwatch team would have to forfeit its match.

Technical difficulties like this can include

internet loss, internal damages to the computers and mass power loss.

Knowles scrambled to get Rocket League players off of the main room’s computers and announced that the back room computers were now non-functional.

Even with the Overwatch team frantically moving from setup to setup, Hardy stayed relaxed and managed to crack a smile. The jovial bunch sat down as they tried to focus and win a match almost doomed from the start.

Team captain Hardy wasn’t concerned about this power bump. The team was ready for the next match.

As they started to sit down, Hardy rallied and told them that they needed to focus in and get ready for the round, regardless of what happens with the computers.

One of the first voices you hear in an Overwatch practice will come from Hardy. Hardy is a double major in media arts and fine arts at the University. The Helena native also serves as UM’s premier Overwatch captain and coach.

They have been playing games as far back as they can remember. One thing Hardy said they had that stood out from their counterparts was a competitive spirit and a drive to succeed.

“I played Overwatch in high school, mostly. And I had like this semi competitive team of friends that I played with. So, I’ve always sort of had a competitive mindset when I played Overwatch.”

In Helena, the gaming community is sparse. Hardy mainly stuck with a close cast of friends who committed to playing online after school hours.

After graduating high school in 2019, Hardy came to Missoula with a loaded bag as both a double

major and someone now two hours from home for the first time. When Hardy first arrived at UM, they found a newly formed UM esports program and hopped on to the competitive Overwatch team.

The 2017 gaming phenomenon has always been a competitive staple in gaming. Hardy used Overwatch to make waves in a way that UM was still new to.

In Overwatch, value is not based on how well you can play a single character, but how well you can adapt — a skill that Hardy excels on a nightly basis.

Along with their versatility, Hardy is a leader in other ways. They are working to host safe spaces in esports for those who don’t always feel welcome in college.

Hardy achieves this by not only doing bonding trips such as hikes to the M, but by holding a seminar before the season to inform

people about pronouns and what a respecting environment looks like in gaming.

“I honestly just think a lot of programs in esports don’t prioritize having a safe space and they just prioritize winning,” Hardy said. “We do not prioritize winning. We prioritize getting better, having a safe space and just having a positive environment. And I think that’s what makes me like our team.”

Now that Hardy is in their last two years, the pressure to succeed in school is sometimes too much to handle. But the moment they sit down and put on their headset, those worries wash away as they prepare to defend the Gaming Den.

GAMERS ON THREE

After the Overwatch team’s computers went dark, Hardy and the team moved to the line of computers. The team needed to get back online, or forfeit the second round, putting the Grizzly Overwatch squad tied going into game three.

The computers in the back were officially toast. While no severe damage occurred, the main breaker controlling all 12 computers in the back room was out. The chatter among the team was confusion and worry. But Hardy wasn’t scared.

Hardy’s smile is one that could clear fog and was the only thing needed to focus the team back in. The team loaded up the game, logged on and started back up with a round setback.

Players from other games stopped their games to check out the scrimmage. Hardy’s calls were quick, making sure the team knew exactly who to target. Elimination after elimination, the team steamrolled through Louisville.

Another round went by and Louisville couldn’t keep up. Each Grizzly attack was precise and each defensive effort was coordinated. Hardy, playing a support role, was looking to rally against the odds and give their team a chance at beating this Kentucky-based squad.

A strong effort late from Louisville kept the Grizzlies on their toes, but as the countdown rolled, Hardy and their team moved onto the final objective of the night, ultimately claiming their first of a hopeful many victories this season.

The final “Victory!” screen appeared and the team erupted. Fist bumps and high fives were shared as Patenaude, Knowles and Weis watched from the audience as this team not only overcame a battle of skill, but a battle of the elements.

Hardy, now slumped into a chair and, overcome with joy, looked around at a team that is no longer uplifted by one single smile but a team sharing smiles once again.

“I think I just like seeing people grow and change,” they said. “It makes me wanna cry. I’m just so incredibly proud of the people that I’ve met.”

Popular science YouTuber Emily Graslie returns to UM

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The first time Emily Graslie visited the University of Montana’s Philip L. Wright Zoological Museum, she was handed a Zip-loc bag containing a dead mouse specimen to prepare for a collection. After sewing up the mouse, she signed her name on the label as the preparer and felt a familiar sense of gratification come over her, the same feeling she got from signing her artwork.

“That mouse is the reason I’m here today,” Graslie said. “I walked out of the museum and my life changed forever. I knew I needed to be a part of natural history in any way I could. That is the reason I’ve traveled all over the world talking about science for the last decade.”

On Friday, Sept. 16, the University Center Theater welcomed Graslie, one of UM’s most high-profile graduates, back to Missoula to give a presentation on her life’s work as a science communicator and educational media producer.

Graduating from UM with a BFA in painting, Graslie never thought about pursuing a life in science until she discovered UM’s Zoological Museum in the fall of 2010. After seeing a friend’s Facebook post of a severed wolf head on campus, titled “A normal day on the job,” she wanted to know where on campus this was considered “normal”, and her curiosity led her to the museum doors.

“As an artist, walking in there, it was like a whole world that I could just play and explore, and there was so much good visual material,” Graslie said.

After her first trip to the museum, Graslie started telling everyone about the collection. She volunteered at the museum and gathered some of her friends to create a taxonomy art show in the UC Gallery. At this time, Graslie was also using her job at the UC Market to her advantage, turning it into a platform for public outreach.

“I had a badger skull under my counter at the UC Market,” Graslie said. “So when people would come through buying their coffee, I would pull it out and be like, ‘You guys want to see a badger skull?’”

Graslie stayed in Missoula after graduating in 2011 to help with the museum and bring awareness to pressing issues other museums were experiencing. After starting a natural history video blog, she uploaded a photoshoot she did with the Kaimin, featuring pictures of the collection. Eventu-

ally the page caught the attention of Hank Green, one of YouTube’s most popular science educators and also a UM graduate.

“Hank reached out and was like, ‘I got this new series coming out, it’s called ‘Crash Course,’ can we come film at your collection?’” Graslie said.

While working with Green on the first few episodes of “Crash Course,” now one of the most watched educational series on YouTube, viewers were quickly drawn to Graslie’s energetic personality. Fans started commenting how they wanted Graslie to have her own show and with Green’s agreement, they co-founded “The Brain Scoop.”

The UC Theater filled with laughter and admiration as students listened to Graslie’s presentation. It’s easy to see how she won over “Crash Course” viewers in 2012.

Kallie Moore, who has been the collections manager at the museum since 2008, believes that individuals like Graslie are able to create a largely positive impact on the future of science communication.

“Science needs non-scientists, if anything I know, it’s that,” Moore said. “The importance of having someone with high energy makes these talks a lot of fun. It’s rare that you come to these talks and have such a good time, and I think that’s what makes science more accessible.”

Graslie had only been working on “The Brain Scoop” for three months when a fan of the series paid \$4,000 for her to fly out and film behind the scenes of the Field Museum in Chicago. On the trip, she got a job offer from the Field Museum to be the first chief curiosity correspondent, which she accepted and worked for the next seven years. During her time in Chicago, she made more than 200 videos for “The Brain Scoop,” which together have collected more than 33 million views on YouTube and continue to receive around 250,000 views each month.

In 2019, Chicago PBS came to Graslie and asked if she had ever considered making a TV show. More than 100 people bought-in, including museums, tribal agencies, universities, and BLM offices. She self-produced a three-hour broadcast series in 2020 called “Prehistoric Road Trip,” about paleontology in the American Midwest.

“We worked with so many different types of organizations and that was the point,” Graslie said. “We wanted to demonstrate that if you’re interested in paleontology, it doesn’t matter who you are. It doesn’t matter where you are. There are



Science communicator and UM alum, Emily Graslie, talks about her experience hosting the PBS special Pre-historic Road Trip on Sept. 16. Graslie, along with a small production team, drove around the western United States to visit museums and anthropological field sites showcasing the ancient history of the region.

ANDY MEPHAM | MONTANA KAIMIN

ways that you can be involved.”

Since “Prehistoric Road Trip,” Graslie left her job at the Field Museum and is now independently producing a new YouTube series called “Art Lab.” She is enjoying taking a step back and experimenting with different ways to interweave her art with science. Graslie said she encourages all college students to be active partici-

pants in society and keep their interests as broad as possible.

“People who inspire me are those who are genuinely putting their real selves out there because they see the value in it,” Graslie said. “You just kind of have to throw something at the wall and see if it sticks. Just try a bunch of things and don’t get too hung up if they don’t work.”

‘Andor’ series shows potential, starts slow

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Taking a break from lightsabers and bounty hunting, the new Star Wars series “Andor” is meant to fly like the Millenium Falcon, but so far has been moving at the pace of Jabba the Hutt. The show was created to fill in plot holes from “Rogue One,” which was created to fill in plot holes from “Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope.” It’s unsure if these answers are meant to be a quick cash-grab or part of a greater plan, but we know Star Wars fans will tune in nonetheless.

“Andor” premiered Sept. 21 on Disney Plus, releasing three episodes at once. This series is the fourth live-action Star Wars show streamed by the company, which also created “The Mandalorian,” “The Book of Boba Fett” and “Obi-Wan Kenobi.”

Taking viewers earlier in the timeline, “Andor” follows Cassian Andor (Diego Luna), who was first introduced in “Rogue One.” The series will show his path to becoming a Rebel against the Galactic Empire.

Hopefully Star Wars hasn’t fallen into the tiresome Marvel trap of sacrificing quality for quantity on the streaming platform. Earlier this year, “Obi-Wan Kenobi” premiered, gifting fans with a love letter to those who grew up with the prequel trilogy. Following a show with beautiful shots, orchestral classics and interesting twists, “Andor” has tough shoes to fill.

Whether Cassian is up to the task remains somewhat unknown.

While coming from the same galaxy, the series feels very different from “Obi-Wan Kenobi.” Morally selfless and caring, the series showed Kenobi as a broken-down man on his path to redemption. However, Cassian doesn’t fit into a perfect messiah role like space-Jesus Kenobi. Cassian sits in the gray zone between being a good guy and bad guy. He puts a different lens on the war separate from Jedi, politicians and soldiers, which is the story fans have grown to know.

The very first scene mirrors Cassian’s introduction in “Rogue One,” one that is filled with back-stabbing and morally questionable decisions. Despite the harsh introduction, there’s something captivating about his character. He’s the underdog that people can relate to and root for, escaping a life he never wanted.

Just as he did in “Rogue One,” Luna adds depth to his character, increasing the feelings of urgency and tension in each episode with perfectly sculpted facial expressions and engaging line deliveries that pull the audience in.

Unfortunately, Luna’s A-plus acting does not completely make up for the otherwise slow and tiresome plot. The episodes of “Andor” have been mainly planning for events to come, introducing new characters and worlds. From the trailers, the series seemed a lot more action-packed and interesting than it has been so far. Hopefully the first three episodes will be satisfactory exposition and it will transition into the main plotline soon without long and unnecessary filler content.

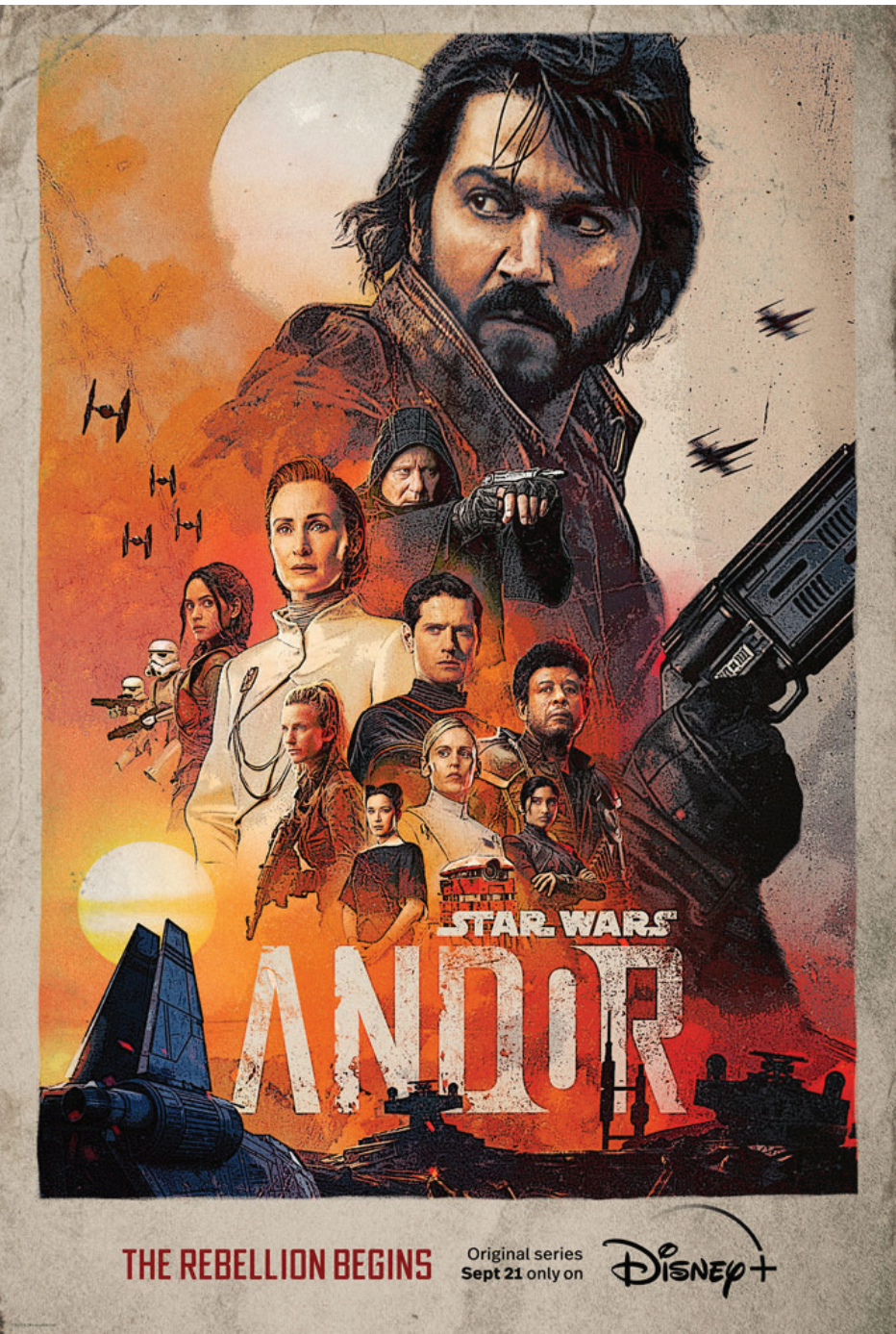
This was a major criticism of “The Book of Boba Fett.” The whole series was a set-up with little payoff. It will be a test to see if “Andor” falls into the same trap, or progresses quickly like “The Mandalorian.”

All four live-action series have included main character flashbacks, a trope that feels tired and overused. It worked in the past, adding in good background knowledge to things such as how Boba Fett survived getting eaten by the Sarlacc and Dinn Djarin’s trauma associated with droids. However, the ones in “Andor” seem to fill in a plot hole created by the series itself, it feels like it’s constantly back-tracking to make things understandable.

Even with these intentions, the flashbacks are messy. The transitions are abrupt and disorienting, making it difficult to follow along with which timeline is actually being shown. These scenes do provide some interesting information about Cassian, along with other interesting characters, but it’s less memorable and more confusing.

The set and costume designs continue to deliver, just as they always do in Star Wars (with the exception of that retrograde biker-gang in the ‘Book of Boba Fett’). The series is full of earthy tones of yellows, greens and browns. This warm palette is a contrast to the tense plot and yet, everything works so seamlessly together.

“Andor” has the potential to be great, full of Rebel Alliance nostalgia and engaging ball-busting blaster fight scenes, especially since it has yet to introduce iconic characters such as Mon Mothma (Genevieve O’Reilly), Saw Gerrera (Forest Whitaker) and the lovable snack on stilts, K-2SO (Alan Tudyk). The show feels like



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it’s about to take off, it’s unfortunate it took three episodes to get to that point.

Found on Disney Plus, “Andor” will be released every Wednesday. While its premiere came with three episodes, only one

will be released weekly moving forward. There will be a total of 12 episodes, more than any other live-action Star Wars show. There is a second season planned for the series, with an expected release of 2024.

By the numbers: Pizza with the president

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After standing on their feet for two hours of a football game, University of Montana students love a greasy, gooey, free slice of pizza. And who better to get it from than President Seth Bodnar himself? The third quarter student section pizza is a hit, but who funds it? And what is it like for the local pizza chains?

UM orders 80 pizzas for the students on gameday, but that's not all. The press box gets some and even Bodnar and his club seats get food.

Domino's brings the pizza to Washington-Grizzly Stadium for the students. It takes multiple hours to prepare the pizzas, two to three employees and several cars. The whole process starts with an order that has to be put in a week in advance.

It takes one-to-two hours to prepare all the pizza dough and roughly another hour to top them all, before cook time. Once the pizzas are completed, they are loaded up into warmer bags and driven over to the University. Domino's tries to schedule employees with SUVs instead of cars on game days in order to take fewer vehicles.

Once there, the pizzas are handed off to Bodnar, one faculty member and one staff member to be passed out.

"We hope Pizza with the President adds to the excitement around student participation on game day," Event Coordinator Ryan Martin said.

Grizzly Sports Properties is the company that actually orders all the pizzas for the game on behalf of Sawyer Student Living, the sponsor of the student section. University athletics has a contract with Domino's that gives it a discount. Normally, customers get 20% off if they order 20 or more pizzas, but the University pays only \$7.99 for each pizza, when a medium one normally retails at roughly \$12.50, which is about 37% off per pizza. This makes the student pizza total about \$639.20, roughly \$360.80 under the normal price.

The Missoula Domino's manager, Shayla Cunningham, said that UM is usually good about getting in the order a few weeks in advance.

"Sometimes the marching band is very spur of the moment," Cunningham said.

The marching band gets another 10 pizzas, so that adds on \$79.90.

The press box gets its pizza from Pizza Hut. A medium pizza, normally, is \$11.99.



President Seth Bodnar, left, and Provost Pardis Mahdavi walk towards the student section to deliver Dominos pizza during halftime at the homecoming game against Portland State on Sept. 24. **RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Pizza Hut also trades with the University for advertising and feeds all employees on game days for free. A handful of pizzas are delivered to the media during halftime. Pizza Hut brings over 60 pizzas for all employees and staff.

Bodnar sits in the president's box most of the game with 50 guests including alumni, legislators, policymakers, board of regents and UM employees. There, they get a menu made up of some fancier food, like pork empanadas or lemon-pepper chicken drumsticks, along with lots of appetizers and things to snack on.

They even get desserts like Flathead cherry macarons and Mexican chocolate pot de creme. The UC kitchen makes this food, but it is not funded by the University, only by private funds, according to UM spokesperson Dave Kuntz.

The Montana Kaimin will continue to ask important questions about pizza. Got a tip? Email jack.marshall@umontana.edu



Missing Children, Cultural Genocide: Residential Schools and Their Legacies

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Amanda Coletta, Canada Correspondent for the Washington Post

UM golf starts slow as fall season hits halfway

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A young University of Montana golf team is starting off slower than it might like, but with some great play from young athletes, the season could be poised for a turnaround come springtime.

A big leap happened in last week's tournament in Eden, Utah, when the Grizzlies jumped up to fifth place after a strong first day on the course.

"I'm always most concerned to watch freshmen play and I liked how they were playing there," head coach Kris Nord said. "They're good, good players and I'm hoping the rest of our returners were able to be on their A-game."

Day one was strong for freshman Raina Ports as she finished top 25, the only Griz to do so.

The second day was not as kind to the Grizzlies as UM slid from its top five spot to number eight, finishing bottom three in a 10 team outing.

"We've had really good play at times," Nord said. "We just haven't been consistent. Golf's a week-by-week thing. I've got scores to go by and set lineups and the nice thing is everybody travels. I get to see everybody perform out of state against other teams on different courses."

While a tough finish to the Grizzlies' second tourney is not optimal, the incoming freshmen and sophomore groups made strides. Ports, freshman Kendall Hayward, and sophomore Kylie Franklin all placed in the top 40.

Three of the top four golfers were underclassmen, a strong sign for a UM squad that has had struggles late into the season. One player could change those expectations.

"Kylie had a great freshman year," Nord said. "She was probably gonna go to the conference and then her putter left her the last week of qualifying and she just missed out, but she was right in the thick of things and she will be in it this fall."

Franklin came in with the heat last season as the Chandler, Arizona, native made it clear she was ready to put up big performances, including a career-best tenth place finish at last year's Griz Invitational tournament.

While last season didn't end where Franklin may have wanted, her goals are to buckle down and try her best at staying steady throughout this year.

"My goals for this year, and this season especially, is to just work on my consistency," Franklin said. "On the golf course, off the golf course, just working and staying consistent with my studies and with my school."

With the pressure of the golf season beginning to weigh on her sophomore year, she



Kylie Franklin hits golf balls at the Missoula Country Club driving range on Sept. 16. Franklin is from Arizona and joined the UM golf team last school year. **LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

hopes to take some time and live out the other two seasons that her home town does not have.

Franklin will look to be a key contributor on an even younger UM golf crew this year, and with fall still hitting high temperatures, the reflection off the green never looked so bright. But after Montana's final fall tournament wraps up, the hope for Franklin is to hang with friends and get to enjoy the Montana wilderness.

"Montana is beautiful," Franklin said. "There's a lot to do in Arizona, but I just wanted somewhere that had four seasons and had more mountains and more outdoors stuff, that back home, is kind of hard to do with the heat, especially in the summer."

For now, it is a matter of finishing out the fall season strong and looking forward to the warming days of spring.

UM golf will have wrapped up its visit to Spokane, and the final fall tournament will take place Oct. 3-4 in Omaha, Nebraska.



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Maroon floods campus for homecoming

WORDS BY RIDLEY HUDSON
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The traditional homecoming week festivities returned for another year at the University of Montana. UM students and alumni enjoyed the Hello Walk, Friday night's "Yell Night" Pep Rally and the parade before the football game.

The return of University of Montana's homecoming parade, themed "Might of Montana," filled South Avenue on Saturday morning before the game against Portland State. The sold out game was attended by more than 26,000 fans to watch the Griz defeat Portland State 53-16.

University of Montana's homecoming parade came back after a two year hiatus with a new route. Due to construction on the Beartracks Bridge, the parade started at the fairground and moved down South Avenue to Dornblaser Field.



FAR LEFT: A bonfire crackles at the 2022 Yell Night pep rally on Sept. 23.
LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

LEFT: Chloe Hill, left, and Emily Fink, right, take a break from painting during the Hello Walk outside of Turner Hall on Sept. 21. Hello Walk is an annual homecoming tradition when students paint the sidewalk.
CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN



ABOVE: Monte shoots t-shirts out of a cannon into the crowd during the game against Portland State on Sept. 24. Monte was joined by UM's previous bear mascot, now playing clutch for the Huston Rockets, in honor of the homecoming game.
NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

MIDDLE RIGHT: UM sophomore wide receiver Junior Bergen runs toward the end zone for a touchdown in the first quarter against Portland State on Sept. 24. Montana won 53-16.
RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

RIGHT: Members of the alumni marching band play during the UM Homecoming parade down South Avenue.
NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

